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racter. The reason given at the beginning, why GALLUS, the first Prefect, had not been celebrated, viz. the absence of the deities presiding over the fine arts, ought, as the party had returned, to be followed by the celebration of MAMERTINUS, the existing Prefect. His name, therefore, should form a part of the acrostic.

P. R.

Albany, July 15, 1831.

*II. Account of an Avenue of Sphinges, discovered by Capt. RAINIER, C.B., R.N.,
at Ben-i-Hassan, in January 1829.*

To the Secretary of the ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, &c. &c.

2, Old Cavendish Street, April 13, 1831.

SIR:

At our last meeting, a visitor having casually alluded to the discovery by Captain P. RAINIER, of the Royal Navy, of an avenue of Sphinges (or Sphinges) at *Ben-i-Hassan* in Egypt, which has not been noticed by any traveller hitherto, I have the pleasure to lay before the Society a letter from Captain RAINIER, giving a description of them, as well as of the excavated temples at *Ben-i-Hassan*.

I remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. J. BOWLER.

Southampton, April 7, 1831.

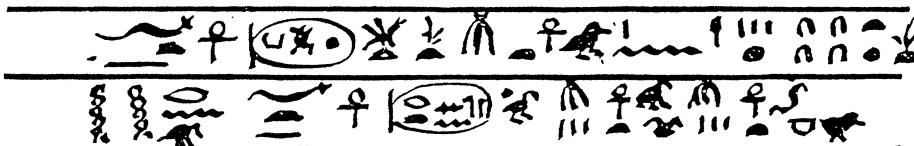
MY DEAR BOWLER:

Agreeably to your wish, I will give you all the information I can relative to the avenue of Sphinges I discovered in January 1829, at the excavated temples at *Ben-i-Hassan*, in latitude $27^{\circ} 53' N.$ (the first you arrive at in ascending the Nile from Cairo). These excavations are of the most beautiful proportions; they bear the name of OSORTSEN the First, the most ancient king yet discovered, having his name in hieroglyphics (a more ancient prefix of a Pharaoh is constantly found; but the oval that should contain the name is not inscribed). All the temples at this place have

tombs under them, the approach to which is by a shaft or an inclined plane of 45° ; this was no doubt for letting down the bodies: there are also several perpendicular openings, perhaps to give light. The two northernmost temples are beautifully sculptured and painted: these have on them the name of OSORTSEN the Second; also of AMONNEITH THOTHA the First and Second, and the annexed prefix.



Amongst the paintings wrestlers are described; also offerings to the deity: the leg of a spotted bull is the first thing presented, then birds, bread, and flowers of the lotus; rivers are also depicted, in which are fish, and the hippopotamus: these are beautifully finished, particularly the scales of the fish. CHAMPOILLION was three weeks copying the paintings in these temples, representing the mode of sowing, reaping, weaving, &c. On each side the door of the Northern temple is a tablet of hieroglyphics with dates, the two first lines on the right as you enter run thus (the name and prefix are those of OSORTSEN the First):



The roof is supported by, or rather six columns are left to support the roof, each cut to sixteen sides: they have been painted to represent red granite; the roof is cut into three arches, and is decorated with yellow stars on a blue ground. The avenue of Sphinges, which I discovered, runs from the second temple to the Nile; the heads are off, and the horizontal sections of the necks alone are visible: these I should not have seen had it not blown hard for several days previous to my arrival at *Ben-i-Hassan* from Thebes, which dispersed the sand. At Thebes I had measured the distances between the Sphinges, that line the great street of *Amonaph*, which connects *Luxor* with *Carnac*; they are nine feet apart: and on measuring the distance between the circular stones lying in two lines from this temple at *Ben-i-Hassan* to the Nile, I found it agree exactly, and after a little search,

I discovered the head of one of them (the ram) half buried in the sand : this was ample confirmation as to what they were. I regret not opening the sand in front of one of them, as I should have found the name of the king who caused them to be erected, but have no doubt that it was OSORTSEN the First. If this account is worth laying before the Royal Asiatic Society you are welcome to do so. I have given a slight description of the excavations at *Ben-i-Hassan*, for the benefit of those who have not seen or heard of them.

* * * * *

I am, your's faithfully,

P. RAINIER.